

Follow Up Report: #19-170

April 24, 2019 Main Camp STP Sewage Spill

Description of Incident:

On April 24th, the discharge pipe leading from wing 10 to the equalization tank of the sewage treatment plant, disconnected at a glued PVC elbow. The resulted in approximately 10m³ of untreated sewage spilling onto the gravel pad approximately 15m south of the main entrance of the camp. GPS coordinates of the location are 63°02'23"N 92°13'37"W. The nearest water body is located over 250m to the north.



Figure 1: Spill source and extent of flow

Spill Response & Cleanup:

Initially, an employee who was outside at the time noticed the water flowing and called the E&I supervisor over the radio. The power supply was disconnected and the valve leading from the equalizer tank was closed. Contaminated material was scraped up with a loader and brought to the License A Landfarm (approximately 5m³), and will later be spread over existing windrows to enhance the bio-remediation process. INAC was previously contacted to ensure that this was a suitable plan of action for disposing of the sewage-contaminated material.



Figure 2: Extent of spill flow from main camp STP equalizer tank facing South East.



Figure 3: Wing 10 outflow to equalizer tank disconnected.

Spill Cause and Corrective Measures

An investigation was completed and the cause of the spill was determined to be caused by a weakened PVC joint. This was likely caused by expansion and contraction due to temperature fluctuation. The PVC joint was reconnected, resealed and leak tested.



Figure 4: A loader was used to remove contaminated gravel for transport to Landfarm A.